

## City of Flint Captain Denies Charges by Two Crew Members

**Declares Union Object Is to Drive Him Out Of His Job**

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—Capt. Joseph A. Gainard, skipper of the City of Flint on its adventurous voyage through the European war zone, was accused by two of his men today of having disregarded the safety of his crew while the ship was in the hands of its German captors.

The National Maritime Union (N. M. U.) announced it had filed charges of neglect of duty against him, and asked that his license be revoked.

At his Melrose, Mass., home, Capt. Gainard denied the charges and, recalling that he was master of the freighter Algic when its crew went on a sit-down strike in Montevideo, Uruguay, in September, 1937, said: "I am probably the most unpopular shipmaster so far as some elements are concerned. I expect I will have this sort of thing as long as I go to sea and I doubt I will go very long, because I will be too much trouble to shipowners. It is the object of these men to drive me out of my job."

### 14 Convicted of Mutiny.

Fourteen of the Algic's crew, all members of the N. M. U., were convicted at Baltimore of mutiny. Three others pleaded guilty in Federal Court, Brooklyn, to charges of neglect of duty.

The union, in a statement, said the charges against Capt. Gainard were filed by its attorney, William L. Standard, with Comdr. R. S. Field, director of marine inspection and navigation in Washington.

Accompanying the charges were affidavits by Peter Walding, chief cook, of Midland City, Ala., and Henry Androvett, mess boy, of New York.

Capt. Gainard, the complaint said, had several opportunities to get his crew out of the hands of the Germans and to contact American authorities, but had refused. It was also charged that he threatened to put the crew in irons when a spokesman for the men asked permission for the crew to go ashore at Tromsø, Norway, to get in touch with Mrs. Richard Borden Harriman, United States Minister to Norway.

### Taken by Deutschland.

The City of Flint, which rescued 216 survivors of the British liner Athenia, sunk on September 3, the day Britain and France declared war, sailed again from New York October 3. Six days later the German pocket battleship Deutschland stopped her and put aboard a prize crew and 38 British seamen from the S. S. Stocogate, which the Deutschland had sunk.

The Germans later put the City of Flint in at Tromsø, where the British were landed.

"At no time during the stay at Tromsø did Gainard attempt to assert his rights as a neutral in a neutral port and free the ship from the German crew," the union's statement said.

At Murmansk, Russia, where the City of Flint was taken after leaving Tromsø, the statement continued, the German prize crew was jailed ashore, and Capt. Gainard was told he could sail.

But the skipper, the union charged, told his crew he would stay until he got a convoy.

"He refused to leave the port and refused to give the crew an opportunity to make good its escape," said the statement.

### Prize Crew Returned.

"Finally, in order to get the ship out of port, Soviet authorities put the German prize crew back on her and ordered her to sail. She sailed for Norway again, arriving two days



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later at Haugesund, where the Germans were removed by the Norwegian authorities and the ship sent to Bergen.

In reply to the statement, Capt. Gainard said today, as he had said in Baltimore January 27 when his ship arrived after her 113-day voyage, that the crew "all behaved splendidly."

"There were times," he added, "when my crew and myself would like to have taken the ship over, but clearer judgment prevailed."

"Of course, I wouldn't let them go ashore—I couldn't go myself. I spent most of my time trying to get ashore or to get messages ashore while we were in Russia and Norway, but I have no consciousness of jeopardizing the men's lives."

"We were in double danger in belligerent waters, with belligerents aboard, and had to be doubly careful, but there was no trouble and there never was any question of putting any one in irons. There was no occasion for it."

### Pan-American Highway Report Is Approved

The Pan-American Highway Finance Committee yesterday approved a report which will be submitted shortly to the various Central and South American governments through which the highway will run. The committee, which met at the Pan-American Union, is composed of Ambassador Francisco Nájera of Mexico, chairman; Leon Bayle, Minister of Nicaragua, and J. Van Ness Philip for this country.



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